

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ACP CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC (ACP) MEMBERS OF THE LOME CONVENTION RECOMMENDED AT THEIR MEETING IN BANGUI JUNE 26-JULY 1 EFFORTS TO INCREASE INTRA REGIONAL AND INTER REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS AMONG ACP COUNTRIES. WE UNDERSTAND THIS WAS THE FIRST OF WHAT IS PLANNED AS SERIES OF CONFERENCES ON INTRA-ACP COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ACP CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION IN BANGUI JUNE 26-JULY 1 BROUGHT TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM 27 ACP MEMBER COUNTRIES, 11 REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND 8 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. MANY ACP COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR AMBASSADORS FROM BRUSSELS. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS AN ORAL SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS, THE FINAL REPORT WAS NOT READY BEFORE THE DELEGATES DEPARTED. IT AND COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE ACP SECRETARIAT IN BRUSSELS.

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2. THIS MEETING CONSTITUTED, ACCORDING TO THE ORAL REPORT, THE "FIRST POSITIVE STEP" TOWARD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAST YEARS'S SUVA CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS ON INCREASING INTRA-ACP COOPERATION. MEETINGS ARE TO FOLLOW ON OTHER SUBJECTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, PROBABLY

IN DECEMBER.

3. MARITIME TRANSPORT. THE MEETING PRODUCED A "CHARTER OF BANGUI" RECOMMENDING ESTABLISHMENT IN EACH OF THE THREE ACP REGIONS OF A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH COORDINATION OF MARITIME TRANSPORT AND OTHER SPECIFIC PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS. IT ALSO ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR RATIFICATION BY ACP AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SHIPPING CONFERENCES.

4. SURFACE AND AIR TRANSPORT: CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED JOINT AIRLINES AND AIR NAVIGATION NETWORKS, MORE LIBERALIZED TRAFFIC RIGHTS FOR OTHER ACP COUNTRIES, AND STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF AIR LINKS BETWEEN THE THREE REGIONS. IT CALLED FOR RAPID CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANS-AFRICAN ROADS AND STANDARDIZATION OF RAILROADS. SPECIAL FACILITIES WERE RECOMMENDED FOR LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES.

5. COMMUNICATIONS: THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED IMPROVED TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMONG ACP COUNTRIES, WITH REVISED TARIFFS TO ENCOURAGE SUCH COMMUNICATION. IT ALSO ENCOURAGED REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MASS MEDIA. ACP MEMBER STATES WERE URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1979 WORLD COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE. THE CONFERENCE CALLED FOR POSTAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF TARIFFS.SMITH

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